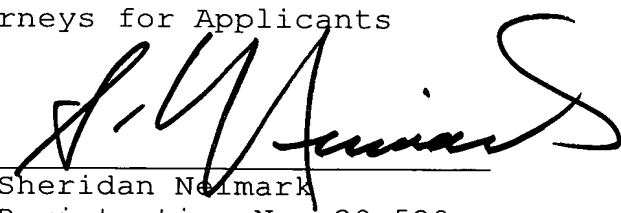


Applicants now respectfully await the results of a first examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

3. (Amended) The compound according to claim ~~1 or~~ 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or prodrug of the said compound or its salt thereof, wherein Q is Q² (~~{~~where Q² represents a single bond), Q⁶², Q⁶³, Q⁶⁴, Q³ (where R⁸ has the same meaning as defined above), Q⁴ (where R⁸ has the same meaning as defined above), Q¹⁷ (where R⁷ has the same meaning as defined above), Q³² (where R⁷ has the same meaning as defined above) or Q²⁷ (where R⁷ has the same meaning as defined above).

4. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1-3~~ claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or prodrug of the said compound or its salt thereof, wherein X¹ is -Ar-A-R¹ (wherein Ar, A and R¹ have the same meanings as defined above) and X² is a hydrogen atom.

5. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1-3~~ claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or prodrug of the said compound or its salt thereof, wherein X¹ is a hydrogen atom and X² is -Ar-A-R¹ (wherein Ar, A and R¹ have the same meanings as defined above).

6. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~

~~claims 1-5~~claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or ~~predrug~~a prodrug of the ~~said~~ compound or its salt thereof, wherein the dashed line forms a single bond together with the solid line.

7. (Amended) The compound according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4 or 6~~, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or ~~predrug~~a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein the steric configuration of X¹ in 11-position is β -configuration.

8. (Amended) The compound according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 5 or 6~~, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or ~~predrug~~a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein the steric configuration of X² in 7-position is α -configuration.

9. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-8~~claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or ~~predrug~~a prodrug of the compound or its salt, wherein Z is a straight-chained or branched alkyl group having 1 - 10 carbon atoms which ~~may optionally be~~ is substituted by a halogen atom.

11. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-10~~claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt

thereof, or ~~pre~~drug~~s~~ prodrug of the compound or its ~~salt~~ssalt, wherein J is a single bond.

12. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1-11~~ claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salt~~ssalt thereof, or ~~pre~~drug~~s~~ prodrug of the compound or its ~~salt~~ssalt, wherein Ar is a single bond.

13. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1-12~~ claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salt~~ssalt thereof, or ~~pre~~drug~~s~~ prodrug of the compound or its ~~salt~~ssalt, wherein A is a methylene group.

14. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1-13~~ claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salt~~ssalt thereof, or ~~pre~~drug~~s~~ prodrug of the compound or its ~~salt~~ssalt, wherein Q is Q⁶², Q⁶³ or Q⁶⁴.

15. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1-13~~ claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salt~~ssalt thereof, or ~~pre~~drug~~s~~ prodrug of the compound or its ~~salt~~ssalt, wherein Q is Q³ where R⁸ is a hydrogen atom or Q⁴ where R⁸ is a hydrogen atom.

16. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1-13~~ claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salt~~ssalt thereof, or ~~pre~~drug~~s~~ prodrug of the compound or its

~~saltssalt~~, wherein Q is Q¹⁷ where R⁷ is a hydrogen atom, Q³² where R⁷ is a hydrogen atom or Q²⁷ where R⁷ is a hydrogen atom.

17. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-11~~ claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~saltssalt~~ thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~ a prodrug of the compound or its ~~saltssalt~~, wherein Ar is an aromatic hydrocarbon group and A is -O-.

18. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-17~~ claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~saltssalt~~ thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~ a prodrug of the compound or its ~~saltssalt~~, wherein G is an optionally substituted straight-chained alkylene group having 2 - 15 carbon atoms.

23. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~saltssalt~~ thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~ a prodrug of the compound or its ~~saltssalt~~, which is selected from ~~among the group consisting of~~

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -(7-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl)-5 α -androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -(7-(N-ethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl)-5 α -androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N-(isopropylaminocarbonyl)heptyl)-5 α -

androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N-methyl-N-butylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(piperidinocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -androstan-3-
one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N-(2-furylmethyl)aminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N-methylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N-methyl-N-ethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N-methyl-N-propylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N-methyl-N-isopropylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-
5 α -androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N-methyl-N-benzylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(morpholinocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -androstan-3-
one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[9-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[9-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[9-(N-methyl-N-butylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[9-(N-methyl-N-propylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[9-(morpholinocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 α -androstan-3-
one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[10-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)decyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-{N-(2-hydroxyethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-
5 α -androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N-propylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-(N-benzylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[7-{N-(2-phenylethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-11 β -[9-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5 α -
androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[3-[3-{3-(N-

methylaminocarbonyl)propoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5 α -androstan-3-one;

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[3-[3-{3-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)propoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5 α -androstan-3-one; and

17 β -hydroxy-7 α -[3-[3-{4-(1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)butoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5 α -androstan-3-one.